February 2026

HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear HASD Community,

As the third quarter draws to a close and the first signs of spring begin to appear, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the progress and accomplishments achieved so far this school year. The dedication, resilience, and collaboration shown across our schools continue to make a lasting impact on our community.

Our teachers have worked tirelessly to create engaging learning environments that inspire curiosity and growth. Their commitment to excellence and innovation has helped students reach new academic milestones and develop skills that extend far beyond the classroom. To our students, your hard work, creativity, and perseverance have been truly inspiring. Whether through academic achievements, artistic expression, athletic success, or acts of kindness, you continue to demonstrate what it means to be lifelong learners and compassionate citizens.
Families also play an essential role in this success. The partnership between home and school remains one of the strongest foundations of our district's progress.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and involvement in your children's education. As we move into the final quarter of the year, let's carry forward the momentum built during these past months. Spring brings with it a sense of renewal and possibility—a perfect time to set new goals, celebrate growth, and look ahead to the opportunities that await.

Together, we will finish the year strong and continue to make our schools places where every student can thrive.

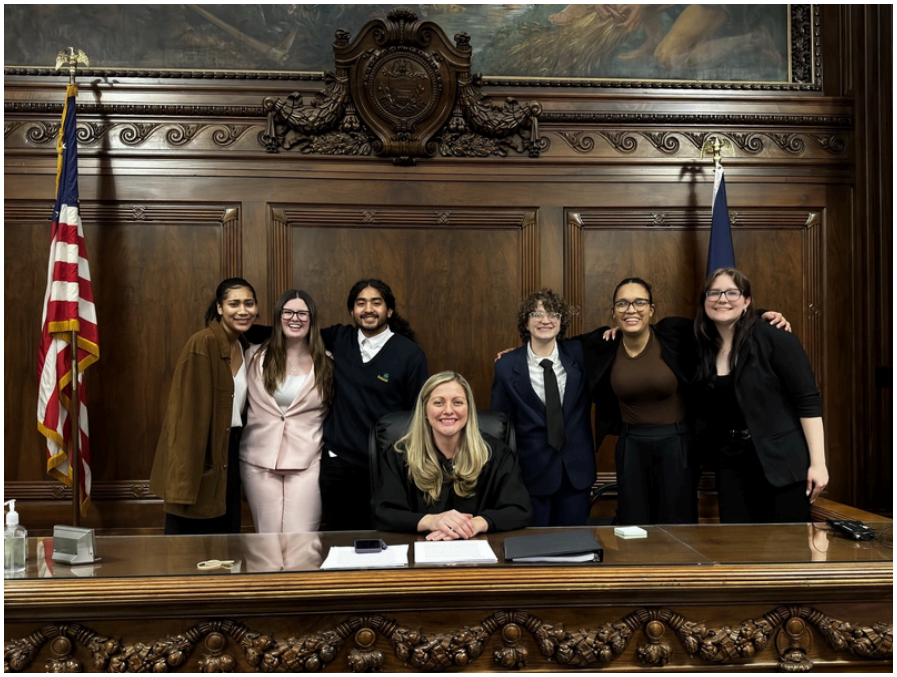


Sincerely,

Dr. Brian T. Uplinger
Superintendent of Schools

MOCK TRIAL

The Hazleton Area Mock Trial team was undefeated in their division during the district competitions and then went on to the semifinals, which they won. They will be advancing to the Mock Trial District Finals, which will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at the Luzerne County Courthouse.





HAHS GIRLS SWIM TEAM



The HAHS girls swim team won the Wyoming Valley Conference championship while defeating Wilkes-Barre Area. They had an undefeated conference season of 11-0.

February 2026

HAHS GIRLS WRESTLING



Our Lady Cougars Wresters are the first to win a District 2 Championship!

February 2026

HAZLETON AREA SENIOR NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Hazleton Area Academy of Sciences senior **Mason Tobias** has been named a Finalist in the prestigious **National Merit Scholarship Program**, placing him among the top academic performers in the nation.

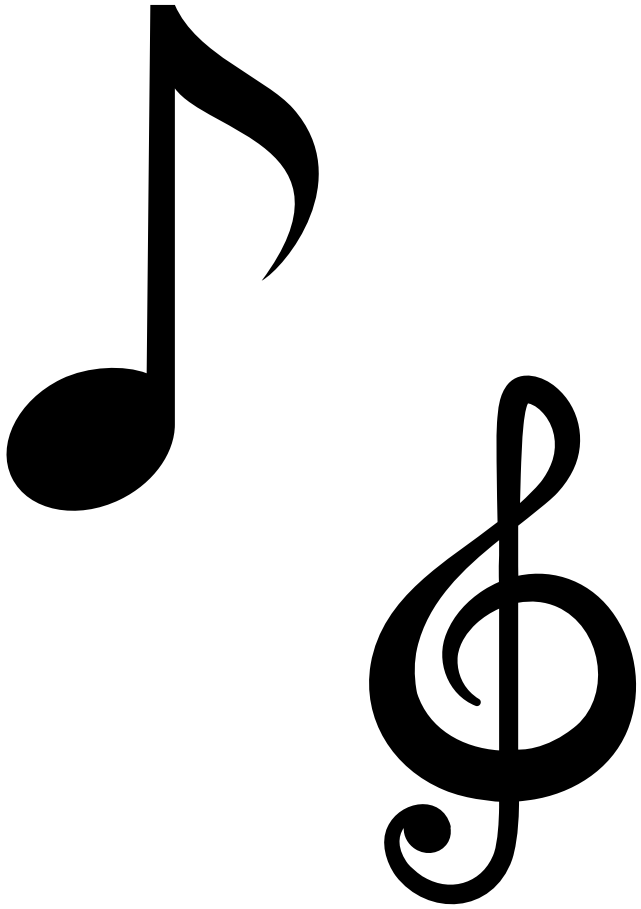
Mason entered the 2027 National Merit competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2025, joining more than 1.3 million students nationwide. From this group, high scorers are identified for further recognition, and approximately 15,000 students ultimately achieve Finalist status.

To advance to this elite level, Mason met a rigorous set of requirements, including consistently outstanding academic performance, SAT/ACT scores that confirmed his earlier testing, a detailed scholarship application and essay, and the endorsement of his high school administration, teachers, and school counselor. Finalists also remain eligible for a variety of National Merit Scholarships, awarded based on abilities, accomplishments, and potential for success in college.

By earning the Finalist distinction, Mason Tobias has achieved one of the most significant academic honors available to U.S. high school students. The Hazleton Area Academy of Sciences community celebrates his dedication and congratulates him on this outstanding accomplishment.

LUZERNE COUNTY BAND PARTICIPANTS

Dylan Mora
Priscilla Olivo
Mercedes Pena
Isabella Collado
Destiny Rodriguez Diaz
Gisselle Pena
Camden Calarco
Jazlyn Espinal
Sophia Carisa
Eva Stacey
Kailey Brobst
Biaggio Velez
Joseph Elena Lapaix
Taelyn Mumie
Jocelyn Rivera Bautista



Senior Sophie Bolitsky received the Luerene County Band Festival Scholarship to participate in a music camp or a university-sponsored summer music camp. Recipients of this scholarship showed a great love for music, academics, and their community.

Donuts with Grownups

Title 1 sponsored Donuts with Grownups for fifth-grade students at Hazleton Elementary School on Wednesday, February 25th. The program promoted literacy and celebrated kindness. Students and parents enjoyed donuts while listening to a read aloud of the book “Sprinkled with Kindness”. Following the book, they worked together on an activity to write ways they show kindness. Parents then helped their child attach the writing to a donut they designed together. Parents were provided with information on the importance of reading each day and choosing books based on their child’s reading level. Thank you to all of the HEMS staff who helped make this event a success!





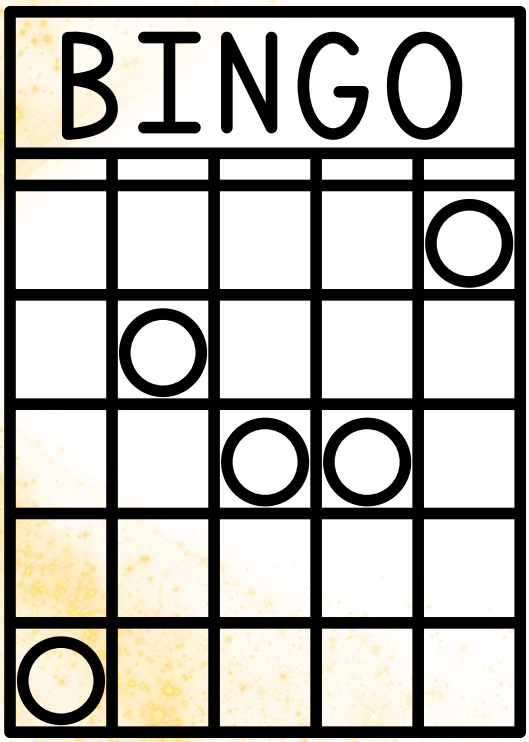








ARTHUR STREET MATH BINGLOW

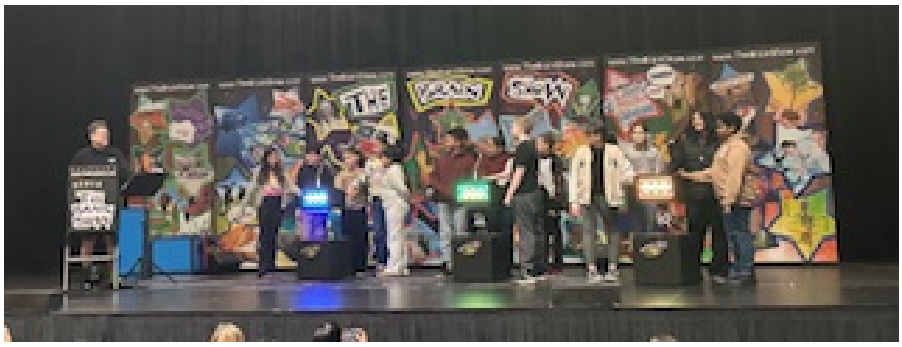


The Title I Interventionists at Arthur Street Elementary recently hosted a **BinGLOW** (glow-in-the-dark Bingo) event for second grade students and their families. Parents joined their children during the school day for a fun and educational activity where teams played Bingo using math skills. Participants wore glow sticks and had the chance to win math-related books to take home. Families also received information and a handout with tips for practicing math facts at home.

THE BRAIN SHOW

The Castle recently welcomed **The Brain Show**, a Title I–sponsored parent engagement event that brought learning to life in a fun, game show-style format. Students answered questions from different subject areas on stage while classmates cheered them on—complete with music and dance moves! Every student participated either as a contestant or an audience member. Families enjoyed a morning filled with laughter, learning, and helpful tips on how to make studying fun and support their child's success at home.





February 2026

THE BRAIN SHOW











February 2026

MATTER MONSTERS!







Parents joined us for an exciting hands-on science experience designed for 5th graders as they prepare for their first Science PSSA. During this interactive program, students became chemists, exploring exothermic reactions that release heat and endothermic reactions that absorb heat while creating a “monster” that changed states of matter before their eyes! Families worked together to connect everyday activities to science concepts like chemical reactions and states of matter. This engaging event showed parents how to bring science learning into the home while encouraging curiosity and a love of lifelong learning.

MATTER MONSTERS!











February 2026

SCIENCE EXPLORERS AT WEST HAZLETON

Title I proudly sponsored Science Explorers at West Hazleton in February for our fifth-grade students. Fifth graders, along with their parents and family members, participated in numerous hands-on, inquiry-based science experiments. The event was engaging and fun—students and families alike enjoyed the experience.

West Hazleton students in grades 1–6 enjoyed an exciting Science Assembly in the gymnasium. The program featured numerous experiments that engaged students across grade levels in hands-on demonstrations and sparked curiosity about scientific concepts.









FIFTH GRADERS AT MCADOO-KELAYRES BECOME PUBLISHED WRITERS

Ms. Sernak's fifth graders were recognized for their entries into the Young Writers' Spook Squad contest. Several of the mini sagas were chosen to be included in Spook Squad-Marvelous Myths! The selection criteria for their entries include perception, imagination, and creativity, as well as expression, originality, and use of language.

Spook Squad-Marvellous Myths is scheduled for publication on April 13, 2026. They can be bought from the Young Writers site. These winners will also be eligible for larger prizes such as the Young Writers' Award of Excellence and goody bags.



February 2026

SHINE FAMILY NIGHT AT MAPLE MANOR

Families enjoyed a wonderful evening at **SHINE Family Night** at both Maple Manor centers. The event began with a hot, nutritious meal and continued with a fun hands-on STEM challenge, where families worked together to design a parachute using provided materials. Their goal was to safely slow the fall of a small object when dropped from a height. Students and families collaborated to plan, build, test, and redesign their creations, using teamwork and problem-solving skills. The night was filled with learning, laughter, and meaningful time together, highlighting the strong connections within our SHINE community.





February 2026

SHINE FAMILY NIGHT AT MAPLE MANOR







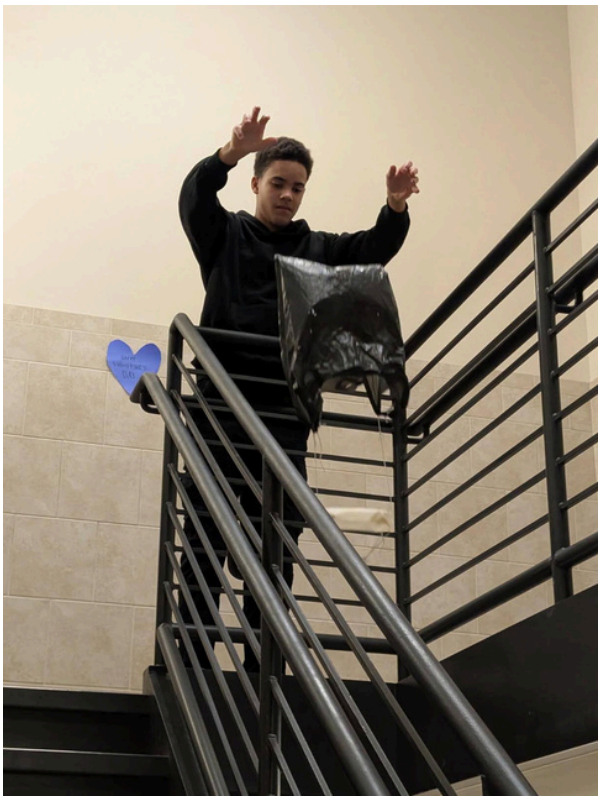




February 2026

SHINE FAMILY NIGHT AT MAPLE MANOR





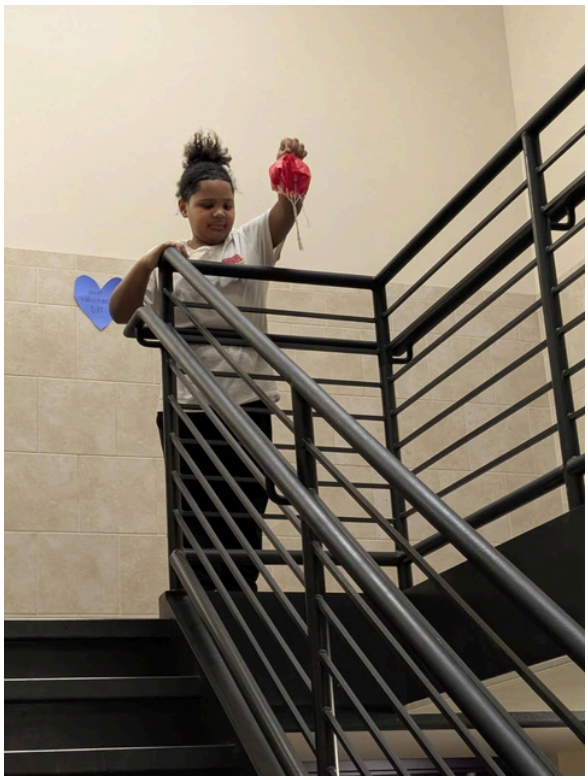






February 2026

SHINE FAMILY NIGHT AT MAPLE MANOR









SUICIDE AWARENESS CLOTHING SALE

Our suicide awareness clothing sale is officially underway to support our upcoming suicide awareness and support event, **Outrun the Darkness**, on May 16th at the Hazleton Area High School Track & Field. The event is being hosted by **the Friends of Rachel Club** at HAHS. Sale ends March 20th! Both youth and adult sizes are available, and we are excited to include long-sleeve, crewneck, and sweatshirt options this year! You can purchase in the main office of all HASD buildings starting this week and online at www.judysstore.com/988. Clothing is also approved to be worn on Friday, May 15th!

[Registration is also still open for our 5K, 9.88K and Kids' Fun Run! If you are interested in running, you can sign up at Outrun the Darkness 9.88K, 5K, Kids' Fun Run and 1 Mile Memory Walk. All runners registered for the 5K and 9.88K by April 1st will receive a free race day t-shirt and the top 3 runners in each age category will receive a medal! Follow along for all race day happenings on our Facebook event page: Outrun the Darkness 5K, 9.88K and Candlelight Ceremony]

February 2026

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH (MIOSM) MONDAY DRESS DOWN

Wear any music-related shirt and jeans on the five Mondays in March! Deadline Extended- Money will be collected through Monday, March 2nd! All Proceeds go to support MIOSM events and the Jeff Haraschak Memorial Scholarship. Please see a music teacher in your building. Let's celebrate all the hard work our music students do!

LIBERTY BELLS ART CONTEST



For America's 250th Birthday, Pennsylvania is having Liberty Bells painted that will be displayed across the commonwealth. If you do a search on YouTube for "Bells Across PA" you will see some of the ones already created.

The Hazle Township Supervisors approved purchasing a Liberty Bell for the rec committee to hold an art contest for 9th-12th graders in the area. They have also approved prizes of $500, $350, and $200 for the top 3 selections. Their artwork will be painted on the bell and then revealed at a celebration at Community Park in the summer.

Contest Details

Winning artwork will be painted on a 2 foot 9 inch fiberglass Liberty Bell to be displayed at Hazle Township's Community Park for the 250th Birthday of the USA

Students are encouraged to incorporate local history into their designs. Examples may include coal mining history, local landmarks (the Castle, the former Angela Park, Eckley, etc), local famous food (Jimmy's Hot Dogs, Senapes Pitza, Farmers Iced Tea, 3rd Base Hoagies). You can decide to honor Veterans or use your art to showcase the wonderful nature at Community Park.
But artists are free to interpret the theme creatively.

Students interested in receiving more information can attend an informational session on March 4, 2026 at 6PM
In-person @ Hazle Township Commons Building
101 West 27th Street, Hazle Township or
log onto ZOOM meeting
MEETING ID 81494599277 PASSCODE 221509

Any questions can be emailed to
hazle.township.rec@gmail.com

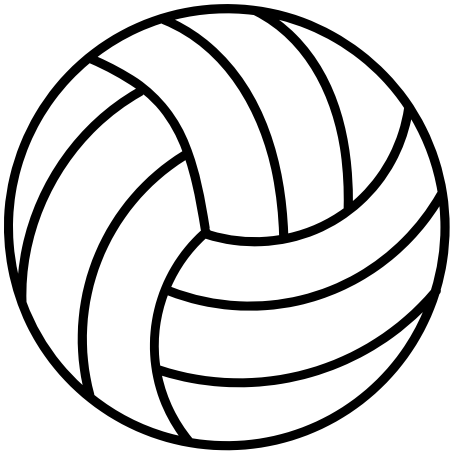
ART CONTEST ENTRY FORM - Please print and return with artwork submission

Student Name:	
Grade (9-12):	
School:	
Parent/Guardian Name:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
Date:_____

By signing above, I give permission for my child's artwork to be displayed publicly as part of the Hazle Township Recreation Committee Liberty Bell Art Contest.

BOYS VB SERVICE PROJECT



The Hazleton Area Boys Volleyball Team will be running their Autism Acceptance service project again this season, and we are hoping we can count on your help to make it a success! We will be selling t-shirts from now until Friday, March 20th (design is attached to this e-mail). T-Shirts are $15. Cash and checks made payable to HASD Boys Volleyball Booster Club will be accepted. (I will also be accepting pay through Venmo—@cpflores1109 for anyone who does not want to send money via mail). Orders can be sent to me via email: ramosc@hasdk12.org

We will be able to wear these shirts on Wednesday, April 15th. Pick up for these shirts will be on Tuesday, April 7th, at the High School from 3:00-5:00 pm. When placing your order, please specify what building you are in, as we separate orders by building. Orders from the High School, Maple Manor, Career Center, Early Learning Center, Arts and Humanities, and STEM will be dropped off in the main office of the building. If you are at Valley, orders can be placed with Mindy Staffin and will also be delivered to your building. If you would like the shirt sent to you via District Mail, please let us know that's the method of receiving your shirt that you prefer. Please keep in mind that we cannot guarantee that the shirts will be delivered on time if sent via District Mail.

February 2026

HAHS ECOLOGY CLUB EARTH DAY

The Ecology Club would like to sell Earth Day shirts to help raise awareness of protecting the Earth and its resources. We would like to sell these shirts at cost (and make no profit) to the HAHS teachers, students, and staff. All orders and money will be made via the company website, so we will not be handling any of the money. The shirts will be delivered to me, and we will then distribute them. We are hoping to entice faculty and staff at the HS to buy a shirt by having a dress-down day on Earth Day, Wednesday, 4/22/26.



February 2026

PRESIDENTIAL 1776 AWARD FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

I am pleased to invite high school students in your state to participate in the Presidential 1776 Award, a national civics competition to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial. As America's 250th birthday approaches, the Department is working to reignite students' understanding of civics and the principles that shaped the United States. After two rounds of local and regional finals, the top four students from each region move on to the national final, held in Washington, D.C. in June 2026, where three winners will receive scholarships totaling $250,000.

This nationwide scholarship competition challenges students to demonstrate their knowledge of the Constitution, the American founding, and the principles that define our nation. From February to June 2026, students will compete in three rounds of multiple-choice and short-answer verbal examinations, independently developed by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. Through this competitive process, students will showcase their exceptional knowledge of America's founding principles.

The award offers students the opportunity to demonstrate their strong understanding of our founding principles—individual liberty, self-governance, and equality—and earn a significant scholarship reward. When young Americans understand our history, they are better equipped to uphold these core values—and this program is built on that principle.

As state leaders, I know you are all dedicated to maximizing opportunities for our students. I urge you to do two things: first, publicly encourage students in your state to take part in this competition, and second, share this information with high school leaders and school counselors in your state. This opportunity offers students the unique opportunity to chart a path toward a bright, promising American future.

I look forward to collaborating with you as we launch this exciting new initiative for our nation's students. For more information, read the full press release here and see the test rules here. Students may register for the test here.

Together, let's inspire the next generation of leaders who will carry forward the principles that have made our Nation great.

January 2026

THE PRESIDENTIAL 1776 AWARD FOR CIVICS

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

Registration is Now Open!

The Presidential 1776 Award

The U.S. Department of Education, led by Secretary Linda McMahon, has launched the history competition of a lifetime, supported by expertise and resources from the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. The contest tests student knowledge of the road to independence, the American Revolutionary War, and the ideas that shaped our nation. Open to high schoolers, it includes a first-round online exam (The Impossible Civics Test), in-person regional semifinals, and a nationally-broadcast final in Washington, D.C.

Scholarships

$150,000	$75,000	$25,000
GRAND PRIZE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE

Important Dates

Registration Window	Online Test Window
February 1–21, 2026	February 22–28, 2026

Sign Up Today!

Receive the contest newsletter and reminders about registration deadlines by scanning this QR code:

www.presidential1776award.org

Digital Study Library

Available free of charge to help students prepare to compete:

Sponsors

The Presidential 1776 Award is a partnership among:

EBSCOed

Freedom 250

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

February 2026

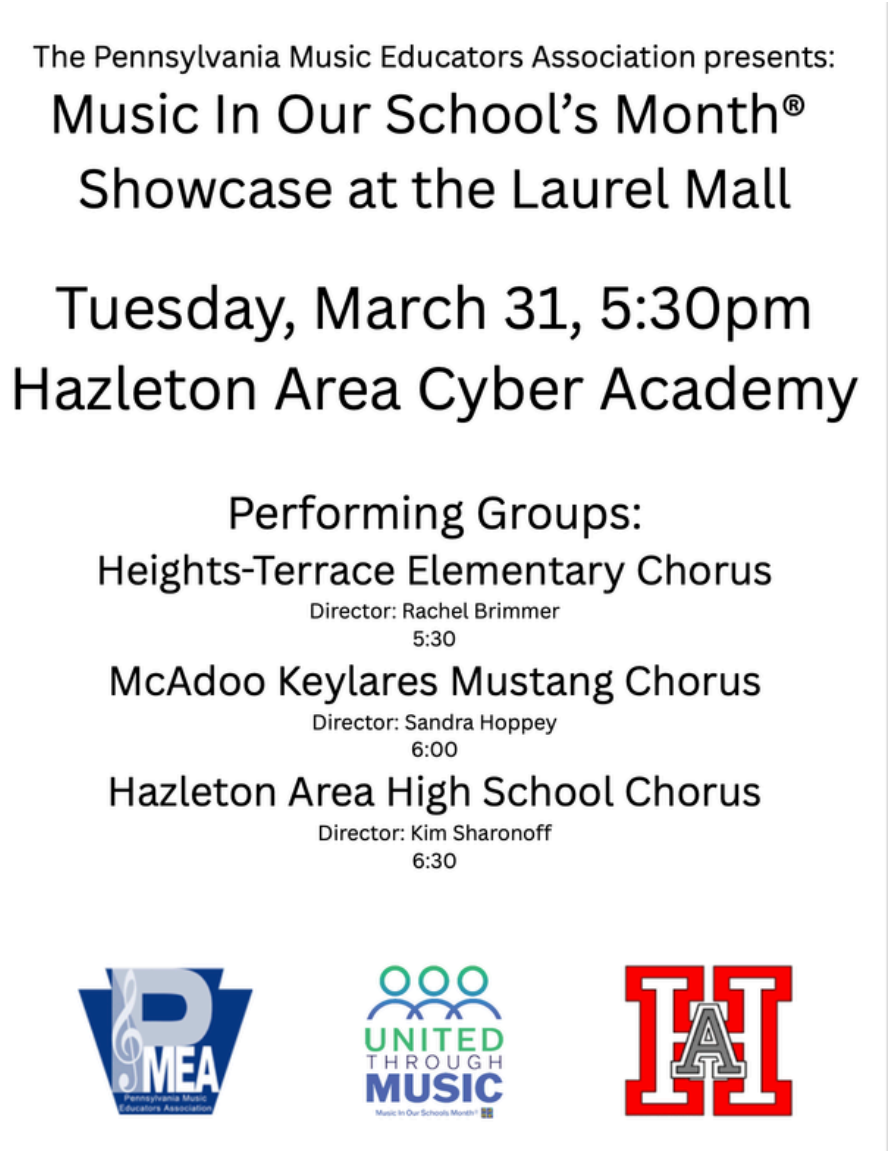
SALUTE TO SERVICE

The JROTC Program is having its spring **SALUTE TO SERVICE** clothing sale. All proceeds will go to the Military Ball in December.



MIOSM LAUREL MALL SHOWCASE

On Tuesday, March 31, we will be reviving the Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association Music In Our Schools Month Laurel Mall Showcase, last held in 2022. Inside the Hazleton Area Cyber Academy, we will have performances from the Heights, McAdoo, and High School choruses starting at 5:30. In addition, since March is also Art In Our Schools Month, the Hazleton Area Cyber Academy students will be providing artwork to decorate the space. This is a great opportunity to see some of the wonderful musicians and artisty our school district has to offer.



RESOURCES/ LINKS

- **HASD Website**
- **HASD Delays & Cancellations**
- **HASD Admin**
- **Winter Sports Calendar**

HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2025 - 2026 CALENDAR

AUGUST 2025

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER 2025

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

OCTOBER 2025

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2025

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

DECEMBER 2025

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

JANUARY 2026

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

MARCH 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

APRIL 2026

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

MAY 2026

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

JUNE 2026

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

School Closed

Act 80 Day

Teacher Day

First & Last Day for Students

Aug.	27-28	–	Teacher Training Days
Sep.	1	–	Labor Day
Sep.	2	–	First Day For Students
Oct.	13	–	Columbus Day
Nov.	10	–	Teacher Training Day
Nov.	11	–	Veterans Day
Nov.	26	–	Early Dismissal for Students & Teachers
Nov.	27 - 28	–	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec.	1	–	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec.	23	–	Early Dismissal for Students & Teachers
Dec.	24 - 31	–	Winter Break
Jan.	1-2	–	Winter Break
Jan.	19	–	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan.	26	–	Act 80
Jan.	27	–	Act 80
Feb.	16	–	Presidents' Day
Mar.	16	–	Teacher Training Day (Snow Make-Up Day 1)
Apr.	2	–	Act 80
Apr.	3 - 6	–	Spring Break
May	25	–	Memorial Day
June	3 - 5	–	Early Dismissal - Students & Teachers
June	5	–	Last Day for Students
June	8	–	Act 80 Day
June	8	–	Last Day for Teachers
	9		This day will be made up byteachers through attendance at:

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT (See Attached)
OPEN HOUSE (See Attached)
GRADUATION (June 5)

NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS

	STUDENTS	TEACHERS
August	0	2
September	21	21
October	22	22
November	16	17
December	16	16
Januar y	17	19
February	19	19
March	21	22
April	19	20
May	20	20
June	5	6
Totals:	176	184

November 4 - End of 1st Quarter -
January 23 End of 2nd Quarter -
April 1 End of 3rd Quarter -
June 5 End of 4th Quarter

EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES - For Students

10:30 AM - Academy of Sciences (STEM)
10:45 AM - High School & Career Center
11:15 AM - Middle Schools
12:00 PM - Elementary Schools

PSSA (Grades 3 - 8) April 20-24, 2026 (English / Lang. Art.)
May 4 - 8, 2026 (Science)
April 27 - May 1, 2026 (Math)

KEYSTONE Dec. 3-17, 2025; Jan. 5-16 & May 11-22, 2026

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Hazleton AreaSchool District doesnot discriminate on the basis of race,color, national origin, sex, disa
or age in its programsand activitiesand providesequal access to all designated youth groups per the Boy Scouts Act. Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator at (570) 459-3221 ext. 81566 or the Section 504 Coordinator at (570) 459-3111 Ext. 3156 at 1515 West 23rd Street, Hazle Township, PA 18202.

Board Approved 4/24/2025